

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Electrostatic discharge can damage electronic equipment. It has been known to start a fire when it occurs when a motor vehicle's gasoline tank is being filled. A device for detecting, alarming, and/or neutralizing an electrostatic charge can help avoid these problems. A variable capacitor, the capacitance of which is made to vary periodically,
5 is used to detect electrostatic charge. A first electrode of the capacitor is the object for which electrostatic charge is important. The capacitor's electrode is one by which the capacitance is varied. An amplitude of a signal from the electrode can be shown to be proportional to the electrostatic charge on the object.